

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PROPOSED ACTION
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) REGION IX
75 HAWTHORNE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105-3901

Applications for Permits to Transport
and Dump Materials into Ocean Waters

Public Notice for Ocean Dumping Permit Numbers
OD 98-01 and OD 98-02

Pursuant to Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1401 et seq.) and 40 C.F.R. § 222.3 of EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations (42 Fed. Reg. 2462, Jan. 11, 1977), notice is hereby given by this office of complete applications for permits to transport and dispose fish processing wastes into ocean waters of Tutuila Island, American Samoa. The permit applicants are: STARKIST SAMOA, INC., P.O. Box 368, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 and COS SAMOA PACKING COMPANY, INC., P.O. Box 957, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

EPA has made a tentative decision to issue special ocean dumping permits to StarKist Samoa and COS Samoa Packing Company for a three-year period. The Agency has determined that these permits are required for ocean disposal of fish processing wastes produced at canneries in Pago Pago, American Samoa. The fish processing wastes to be disposed from StarKist Samoa are: dissolved air flotation (DAF) sludge, cooker juice and press liquor. The fish processing wastes to be disposed from COS Samoa Packing are: DAF sludge, precooker water and press water. Based on dilution levels expected at the designated ocean disposal site, the fish processing wastes are not expected to cause significant long-term impacts to oceanic water quality, marine ecosystems or human health.

The fish processing wastes will be disposed at an ocean disposal site 5.45 nautical miles southeast of Tutuila Island. The ocean disposal site has center coordinates of 14° 24.00' South latitude by 170° 38.20' West longitude and a radius of 1.5 nautical miles. The water depth at the disposal site is about 9,000 feet. This site was designated for use on February 6, 1990 (55 Fed. Reg. 3948) and was used by the two American Samoa canneries for disposal of fish processing wastes under MPRSA § 102 special permits OD 90-01 and 93-01 (StarKist Samoa), and OD 90-02 and 93-02 (COS Samoa Packing Company) for a cumulative total of six years. No significant long-term environmental impacts were found at the site during site monitoring activities.

During the term of special permits OD 98-01 and OD 98-02, the permittees must continue monitoring programs for the combined fish processing waste streams, disposal vessel navigation and monthly ocean disposal site monitoring. Information compiled during the term of these permits and any previous information about ocean disposal of fish processing wastes off American Samoa will be used by EPA Region IX to determine compliance with EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations defined at 40 C.F.R. Parts 220 through 228 and the Special MPRSA § 102 permits.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

DAF sludge is waste material that remains after treatment of fish processing wastes to remove grease and suspended particulate matter. DAF sludge also contains aluminum sulfate or alum (an odor reducing chemical) and coagulant polymers (to coagulate suspended matter) that are added during the waste treatment process. Cooker juice or precooker water is a combination of stick water and other process water that collects under the steam precookers at the fish plants. Press liquor or press water is waste water produced at the fish meal plants when fish scrap is cooked and pressed before being dried to produce livestock food meal. The three waste streams will be combined in an onshore storage tank prior to transport to the ocean disposal site.

There are no changes in the overall volumes of fish processing wastes proposed for disposal by either applicant. The proposed disposal volumes are:

Fish Processing Waste	StarKist Samoa (gallons/day)	COS Samoa Packing (gallons/day)	Total Volume (gallons/day)
Daily Maximum - Combined Waste Stream from Onshore Storage Tank	200,000	200,000	400,000

Based on EPA Region IX's review of data collected under the previous MPRSA § 102 special permits, the following changes are proposed for the new permits: 1) new permit limits for the combined fishwaste have been calculated which are higher than the previous permit limits for the separate waste streams, 2) a new set of confirmatory suspended phase acute toxicity bioassays are required to confirm that disposal operations are similar to the previous permitted actions, 3) a clarification of the requirements for disposal operations within the disposal site, and 4) reporting forms have been modified to simplify the reporting of permit monitoring information. All other general and special conditions are similar to existing conditions in MPRSA § 102 special permits OD 93-01 and OD 93-02.

INITIATION OF HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Within 30 days of the date of this notice, any person may request a public hearing to consider the issuance of, or the conditions to be imposed upon, these permits. Any such request for a public hearing must: 1) be in writing, 2) identify the person requesting the hearing, 3) state any objections to the issuance of, or to the conditions to be imposed upon, these permits, and 4) state the issues which are proposed to be considered at the hearing. Under 40 C.F.R § 222.4, the Regional Administrator's determination on whether to hold a public hearing shall be based on whether the request presents genuine issues of policy or facts amenable to resolution by public hearing.

Comments on the tentative determination and requests for public hearings may be submitted in writing within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: Mr. John Ong, Acting Chief, Monitoring and Assessment Office (WTR-2), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, telephone (415) 744-1867.

The Administrative Record, which includes the applications, the proposed permits, the fact sheet describing the permits, is available for public review Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the: EPA Region IX Library, 13th Floor, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA, (415) 744-1510; EPA Pacific Island Contact Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5124, Honolulu, HI, (808) 541-2710; and American Samoa EPA, Executive Office Building, Office of the Governor, Pago Pago, American Samoa, (684) 633-2304.